

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 44, 46-49, 51-57, 59, 62, 64 and 66-78 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-43, 60-61, 63, and 65 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 45, 50, 58 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for future filing in one or more continuation applications. Claims 44, 49, 57, 59, 64, and 72-74 are amended. New claims 75-78 are added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 57 and 72-74 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claims 44, 49, 59, and 64 have been amended to include subject matter from claim 57 identified by the Examiner as allowable. Applicants submit that new claims 75-78 and amended claims 44, 49, 57, 59, 64, and 72-74 do not require additional search as they depend from independent claims 44, 49, 59, and 64 which now contain subject matter that the Examiner indicated as allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 44-50, 56, 58, 62 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shaughnessy, U.S. Patent 6,141,347 (hereinafter “Shaughnessy”), in view of Shaheen et al., U.S. Patent 6,128,490 (hereinafter “Shaheen”) in view of Ichikawa et al., U.S. Patent 6,307,837 (hereinafter “Ichikawa”).

Claims 51-54, 66-68, 70 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shaughnessy in view of Shaheen in view of Ichikawa in view of Doeringer et al., U.S. Patent 5,361,256 (hereinafter (“Doeringer”).

Claims 55, 70, and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shaughnessy in view of Shaheen in view of Doeringer in view of Okanoué, U.S. Patent 6,477,149 (hereinafter “Okanoué”).

As mentioned above, independent claims 44, 49, 59, and 64 have been amended to include subject matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Claims 45, 50, and 58 are cancelled. The remaining claims rejected under the above mentioned 35 USC §103(a) rejections depend from independent claims 44, 49, 59, and 64, either directly or indirectly.

Applicant: Farley et al.

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For the reasons presented above, withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) of claims is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephonic interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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